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Davenport. March 15th 1876

Rec'd March 21
Ans March 26

My Dear Dr

It was pleasant even for a short moment to See your head emerge from the rushes. If only to say "What are you about" When that ship of yours comes along I shall Expect to see it Crowned with Sunci more attractive in your Eyes than ivy or laurel. Your letter contains less than the usual number of ??. So I can answer in brief. Have been doing but little the past winter except trying to keep warm. I made one visit lately to I A Lapham in Mil. He has some interesting Data in reference to that barometric wave of Jan 7th & 8th took hourly observations during the period of its greatest elevation which correspond remarkably in point of time with the observations at Albany N.Y. Had I been aware of its importance I would also have taken mine &c I have only these Jan 7th 8 AM, Barm 30.072 Th Att 27. Th Wt 19

" " 2 PM " 30,160 " 27 " 23

" 8th 7 AM " 30,402 " 24 " 8

" 2 PM " 30346 " 25 " 20

Clear with a raw East wind.!

What were Jan Observations ?

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In what form and when will you publish your
paper on Cuscus? I do not feel deserving of
the commemoration suggested by Prof Gastaing. but
will furnish items as desired. When will his
memoir be out? I hope it will be fully illustrated
Why cannot we get up a colored figure of N. polyspathum
as you once proposed. I would contribute towards the
expense. and you could no doubt influence Shaw in
that direction. — I wish you would hurry & get
rich. So that you could quit practice & medicine.
There are plenty that can attend to that, but few that
can work at botany as you can. — My wishes
are still directed Eastope word, but financial obstacles
get stand in the way. I am waiting to sell some
property and then must be off — in the mean time
I expect to do something in local botany the coming
season. I have the promise of a free pass for the
year over a new R R just laid to Milwaukee which
I shall try & improve for botanizing purposes. may
stumble on some juncei — Dr Gray intimated some
time ago that he thought of coming west for a visit.
Can we coax him along this season. he could give
Shaw. points to boost in his scheme — If Fendler really
to go back to Missouri this Spring — A good joke
on Dr Gray that. Horsford Cannon speech of his but perhaps
it would not do to joke him about. though it sounds funny —
I will write soon and send that memoir. also some
barometric Rs. this much to let you know. What I am
about

Sincerely Yours

J C Parry

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Rec'd April 2d
Ans April 10th

Davenport March 30th 1866

My Dear Dr.

Yours of 26th is just received. We are having a Second Edition of winter with Snow & ice in abundance navigation only just open. I am almost ashamed to send you my limited Invoice but at last I want them named under your revision I will try & do something in that line this year

Your suggestion in reference to that Polar Expedition stirs up my old roving feelings I don't know but I would like to go under certain conditions. viz to have all travelling expenses paid going and returning & facilities for making and transporting Collections for my own benefit & profit, —

I should prefer to have it only as a Summer Trip. So that I could return as early as Sept 2 would of course take my barometer make continuous observations & write out a report of the trip I would also stipulate for the privilege of corresponding for some Journal as a matter of profit &c &c

If you think the conditions above specified would be agreeable you might confer with Mr Gale and I will take the matter under Consideration and give a definite answer — Of course my object is to get all the information I can over the widest scope of country with a view to future use I would collect only new & specially interesting things. The part I would especially like to visit is west of the range on the direct line to Salt Lake which is a new and comparatively little explored country

Please let me know in reference to this matter as soon as possible that I may make necessary arrangements should I conclude to go Also find out the proposed route, time of starting, and what time is proposed to complete the trip.

For that months trip of yours I would suggest coming this way of course, and then going on to Milwaukee, thence to Green Bay &c &c — If I am here you can count on my company. Sure

Do the Bd of St Louis Transactions complete or will it be delayed for your papers?

That Cannot I speak of Dr Jay is in Dillman for Jany 1866 as President American Academy of Science

In haste Yours truly

C C Parry

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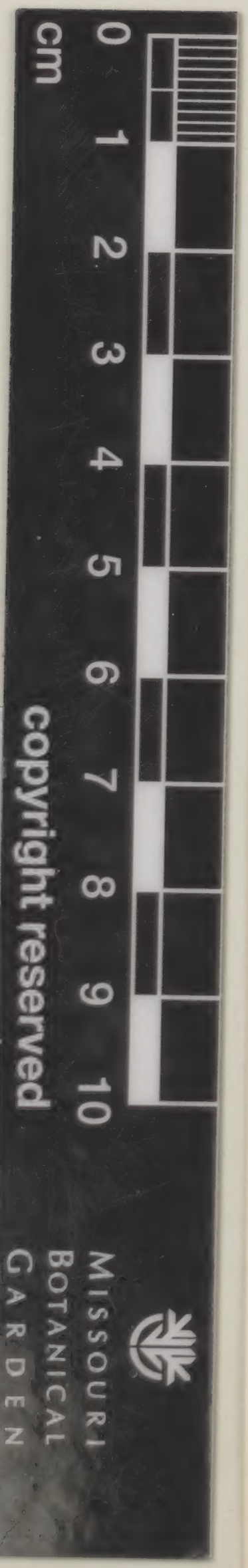

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Rec'd Nov 21
Ans May 9

Davenport April 18th 1864

My Dear Dr

Yours of late date duly rec'd. I had hoped to have heard something more definite in reference to that Pope Expedition. But time enough yet for developments. When fully informed please let me know the results.

From the Rocky Mt News which I get weekly is a report of R.R. Survey from Ft Reilly Kansas to Denver. by what is called the Smoky hill route concluding with a table of Elevations I spy two items in reference to the Elevation of Denver City - which shows a discrepancy of 500 to 600 ft below our barometric determinations!

" Denver city distant From Ft Riley 466.61 miles is 3757. ft higher than that point; is 4108. ft higher than the Missouri River at Wyandotte (Mouth of Kansas). and 4336. ft. higher than the Miss River at St Louis.

" The Platte River is just at 15 ft below the Denver city Station."

What means have you for checking these results? This Survey was made I judge in a hurried manner between 15th Sept & 11th Nov 1865. Have you access

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h any Ther R R Surveys different - from this ?
How do the elevations given by Wyandotte &
Ft Riley agree with what you know of the
same points - . I should be sorry if our
results derived from such reliable data should
prove so unreliable ——

My specimens of Abies Engel 12 to 15 cones
out very nicely being covered with leaves
they will make a fine show this year.
How can I best send 2 or 3 specimens to
Shaw ?

Our backward season is now hurrying
along at a rapid rate to day is rainy and
vegetation is fairly jumping out of the ground
I am kept pretty close just now by
sickness in my family. Else I should feel
like going down there

James Hall E E Sarg

Radical sum such as you would assume in
Botany. Stick rules supreme on our side of
the Miss

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Rec'd May 22
Ans Jun 2d

Davenport May 20th 1864

My Dear Dr

It would no doubt require the tactics of an ex-Commander of the Army of the Potomac to see the point of the joke played on us by the Supreme Military authority of the Western Department At least it is quite cool if not refreshing this hot weather. to note the nonchalance of the response as D^r^ were asking the favor instead of accepting a rather equivocal position — Wde perhaps it is worth something to find out that a "lying St." does not make a healthful May flower. I at least am well out of the scrape so good bye to the "Hero of No 10"! What next? Why of course since "the Cholera has not reached St Louis. I shall expect that visit. and will here pledge myself in advance to Mrs E. to have no interference from "fashionable Company", You will of course bring your bog-boots along prepared for the marshes — Why not come soon before the sick harvest sets in —?

This week I expect to go and see that Captured Southern Belle. Wde then get more definite information. as to St— character & probable ownership. Perhaps the Sanci can spared D.! will write you more fully about it

$10

10, 50 [illegible]

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Rec'd Jun 1st
Ans Jun 24

Davenport May 31st 1866

My Dear Dr

Since writing you I have been to see the Captain's Southern herb which turns out to be in bulk a very indifferent European collection with some odds & ends from other parts of the globe including a very few nice things but badly worn rather many of the specimens have the name of "De Candolle" on the top of the label. in a very neat hand writing. perhaps his own others bear the name of a German I cant make out No localities are given except some garden specimen in Fruit "Jardin des Faculté" a few "Vincennes" a very few Mimosæ &c plants very indifferently put up with occasional notes & crude descriptions mostly common plants & garden specimens. the name of the owner does not appear at all!! I infer it may have been some amateur or French physician. Among the Mex specimens is one (enclosed) under a pencil name Smilax bilobata which I cant find. I have leaves from another source. So I suppose it is a garden sheet of which you can furnish the true name. It is angular with that peculiar ferny texture and parallel veins. The Junci are half a dozen specimen of common European species so much for the Captains herb

I was more interested in Canning accounts a self taught botanical artist — who had made a number of colored sketches of a number of our common plants including some Southern — I think with a little framing in Scientific botany would make a very creditable artist., I send a sample. I have given him some Rocky Mt plants & sketch He is a Dr Hudson a respectable practitioner about 35 years of age is quite zealous, lives in Lyons, If he does well I shall set him to work I have sent him a copy of St Louis Transactions including our figures he will try his hand at coloring. He would be a nice hand to go out to the Mountains & sketch fresh plants &c &c Nuttalia polygastachya &c

I suppose you have heard from Schott he seems uncertain whether he has any Cacti from Yucatan. I presume he will have a good supply of "working specimens" If seen the work you about Cacti. — What about that visit? Shall expect to hear from you soon

Sincerely Yours

G. G. Parry

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Rec'd June 5
Ans'd June 24

Davenport June 3d /66

My Dear Dr

Many thanks for the copy of St Louis Transactions. including your admirable Sarcus paper I shall never feel joking you again about your boggish propensities. when you can make such common, vulgar? things evolve such beautiful scientific results. — such a years "closet labor" puts to shame the work of us field observers who see so much, and accomplish so little. I hope we shall not have to wait long for the sequel of your paper. I shall want some more copies but will write you again about it — I dont seem to get in the way of doing much botanically this season. have on hand some business negotiations. for the sale of property which occupies my time and confines my thoughts from more congenial things. I think of visiting Vasey soon who I do not know personally. hope to do something towards your Sarcus sets. will consult with Vasey about it. You do not say whether you will come this way soon for a vacation. and when? I sent you a few days ago. a letter containing a sketch from a self taught botanical artist Dr Hudson of Lyons Iowa which I would like to have you criticise. and make suggestions in

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I have them equally good, with a little botanical training would I think be very creditable work. He seems to aim at accuracy, as opposed to mere artistic display. I have recommended to him to make dissections and analyses and study the plates of the Pacific RR reports &c also to be more radical (according to your views). He seems particularly interested in colors, and hence has not done much in drawing from dried specimens Hope to hear from you soon

Very sincerely Yours

C. C. Parry

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Rec'd July 12
Ans July 25

Davenport. Iowa July 10th 1866

My Dear Dr

Yours of 22d June has been lying some time unanswered, I have been confined by company and do not get out much beyond the town limits. — My botanizing has been mostly confined to weeding in my small garden patch. My little pines look well. also Pamesia. which grows lustily. and seems to suit the climate It has quite a range in the Atlas from 6000 to 9000 ft so that it probably has some adaptation proven to suit different conditions. I have also a fine bush of Ribes Cereum. which is worth cultivating for its persistent bright colored fruit I had intended to visit Vasey this Summer and confer with him on Juncus collection. on writing to him at Ringwood to ascertain the best route of reaching his place I received letter from him new location. notifying me of his change and also the sad intelligence of the loss of his wife I expect however to visit that section during the season & will see what I can do in the Juncus line —

My botanical artist receives gen suggestion with good grace realizing their truth. I now learn that he served apprenticeship as Engraver and so has experience in that line of business. he has made some very good sketches of Rocky Mt

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Plants. which I have received. viz
Calypso borealis very good. Polemonium confertum
also good. Primula Parryi good but not perfect
colored — Gentiana barbellata. good plate
colored — 3 Parryi, and some others. We
have been talking of a trip to the Mts with
a view to making sketches some time.
I have loaned him my Op. & Grays Manual
to get some idea of dissection &c
Saml Pope has just got out to Denver. Jun
27th goes thence to New Mexico — So I learn
from Mr Rocky Mt newspaper. They are
doing the wond. work of a Wagon road across
the range near my old location Empire City
when that is done I shall want to go
again. — Your RR — progressing finely
I do not see why it should not reach Denver
in 3 years at least. I send enclosed
$5,00 as per your bill. also stamps for
postage I suppose you will have your Patents
soon. by itself — of which I should like an
extra copies. I dont hear from Dr Engelmann
What is he doing?

Sincerely yours

C. C. Parry

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Rec'd Sept 7
Ans Sept 13

Davenport Sept 5th 1866

You see I have scratched off on the other side what occurs to me in reference to your young botanical enquirer who as you say ought to be encouraged. for this is the kind of material that will help to develop the botany of our wild western region. As to other matters, in your note must be brief. — Yes "must" is the right word to use in regard to that labelling business I am glad for you to add your auxiliary to mine in a matter that I have too long neglected. — My Juncus from Racine were not worth naming. J. tenuis, nodosus, bufonius the cosmopolites &c. on Rock Island. — M. angustum will be properly attended to — I have found my copy of Pl. Fendl. — We have had rain Aug 29th also 31st also a heavy rain on the night of Sept 3d — It is fair weather here and a plenty of company to see the sights — I think some of going up to the Wisconsin State fair at Janesville last of this month. when I may meet Lathrop (glad to hear that the Charleia is a castor) in St Louis.

Truly Yours
J. G. Jones

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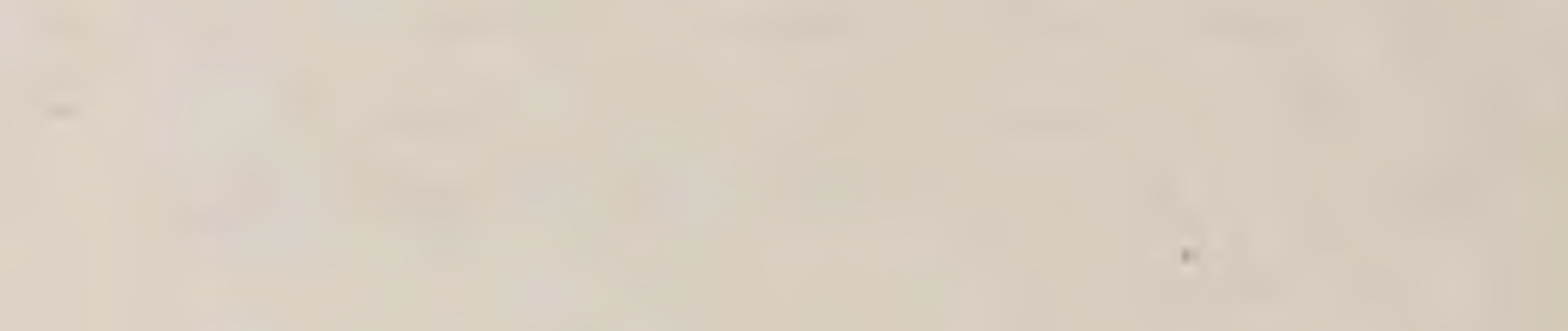
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Davenport Dec 1st 1866

My Dear Dr

You have no doubt been waiting patiently for a report from me of my visit to the East. and will perhaps be surprised to learn that I got no farther than Milwaukee when owing to a change of programme I turned back and have since been quiet in my old quarters. Not so very quiet either - for in the meantime I have made a change of location. packed up my duds herbarium &c. and am now living in the country 3 miles from town. My chief motive in this was to get rid of the cares of housekeeping and be prepared to take up with whatever may offer in the way of Exploration next season In the meantime. I am very comfortably situated for winter work while at the same time I am free to leave whenever occasion call for it I have my young pines & Sarracenia roots dug up & buried for the winter ready to set out, or distribute in the Spring. So you see I am like a soldier on the march. ready to move at short notice I have lately packed & sent to Dr Parry some sets of wood blocks which I am tired of keeping on hand. My herb is yet unpacked but I must soon get at that labelling job!! I presume you did not write me at Sandy Hill. as I have received no addresses to that effect. though I trust you received safely my paper on Rocky Mt Ferns. which I mailed

you just before leaving on my Eastern trip.
How I suppose you are getting more leisure from
practice for botany, and improving perhaps on some
new hobby — When you make your selection on
my paper please for re-writing and completing
the alpine list, also inform me as to the printing
so that I may have the manuscript ready in time
I have nothing definite for next Summer
Pikes Peak will be rather stale when the R R
gets there. But I may go for a Middle Park excursion
a friend of mine who is fortunately rich is talking
about going out for a Summer trip and wants
me to go alone. My house in town is only
rented not sold. Otherwise I should think of
packing up for Europe next — Spring and see the
Alps. Do you yet decide definitely on your
plans. in regard to George & yourself & wife?
Is Mr Bigelow still at Detroit, engaged in his
"Eureka" investigations? If I go to the Rocky Mts.
I must help out Thistle Summit etc.
Let me hear from you soon & let me
know what you are up to botanically present
my regards to George and Mrs E.

Yours truly C. C. Parry

Don't forget your photog. before you go to Europe &c.

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Rec'd Feb 1
Ans Jan Day

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Rec'd March 2nd
Ans — 6th

Davenport Feb 28th 1867

My Dear Sr

You see I did not go down to the Convention. I found that it would throw me into a crowd of strangers whom I am — I did not like and so respectfully declined, and am now stuck fast in country mud. I have no definite plans yet for the season. Though NY attractions are still strong. You St Louisians are on the slow coach system we expect to get our road through to Denver this season. So I renew my invite to come up here and go out in July for a summer vacation. You have not yet told me whether Bigelow is still at Detroit working under Uncle Sam. and ready to divide span time to Nashua & Juneau this year. I have written to Jay urging him to come west this Spring to see the country, and work upon Shaw. to secure your bond. and give you a Consulship So that when you come back from Europe you can step into a snug berth for the balance of your days, and go to sleep, over looking the Ivory. I have thought seriously on this subject for a long time. There are plenty of men competent and glad to do medical practice but one

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do your botanical work, and if you can do so much with a perpetual load of medicine on your shoulders. a fortiori when you can shake it off. I heard from Brewer lately he seem somewhat riled at A. Hoods quackery. with botanical and hypsometrical, he claims to have collected 3400 species of plants most of them new &c. Have you read the account of the ascent of Mt Hood. Such he makes over 17000 ft by boiling point 180°7 according to that however it should be 20000 or upwards. I am glad that the mountain can be ascended however so that some time this mooted question can be put at rest. Bayard Taylors book on Colorado is out his botany is puny. he goes into fits over my discovery and find in Middle Park an "orchidaceous plant almost identical with the Cyclamen of Europe"! His elevations are decidedly high Mt Blanc is no where in comparison! with Mt Lincoln &c &c But then he writes for the people. When will you commence publishing next Vol Transactions better send me your contribution as my paper to return so that I can copy for the printer

Yours Sincerely

C C Parry

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Rec'd April 1st
Ans Ap 18 Dawson's Ranch March 28th 1868

My Dear Dr

I am getting the mountain fever bad, but I need not ask you for a prescription because you would only say, So! I have just rec'd a long letter from Thee in answer to some enquiries I made in reference to the amount of snow fallen this winter not a very definite answer however the accounts varying from 10 to 40 ft! only this positive that an unusual quantity is now on the ground with a fair prospect for summer floods

But mine Exciting than all a friend of mine has a Cabin built just at the foot of Grays Rock, not far below the timber line, & and roads have been constructed from the new town of Argentine, over the range to Blue River, and to South Park I think the town of Argentine must be on the

lower slope of Mt Engelmann. which contains rich silver lodes. So you must give up your European trip and go and lay claim to your share of the treasure including more fossil Shark we found last year on Rock Island.

That "Mag Palmer"? you spoke of in your letter is Mac Powell. and I learn that in his plan of Explorations he has included me as Botanist. also my old Companion Dr Velie as Ornithologist. He expects to secure some travelling facilities for the party and will meet us soon at Rock Island to talk over the arrangements. I am anxious to go. as the prospects would be that I could push over toward Salt Lake. and thus cover new grounds. I would also have a chance to measure some of the high peaks at the head of Arkansas including Mt Lincoln

So you see I am in quite a fair way for another Summer trip. I wish you would look over my Snow paper soon and return for correction. or if it will pass pretty well as it is let it go to the printer and make corrections + additions from new data.

I never was quite satisfied with Dr Gray's determination of Delphinium Elatum? It is so exclusive in its habit. and invariable in its appearance I only found it on the upper border of alpine Woods. associated with Caltha asarifolia; Mertensia Sibirica and Primula Parryi + on the whole you will have a bright job in fixing up Hayden's Flora. but will no doubt find some choice novelties in his stock

I must close for mail.

Yours truly

C. C. Parry

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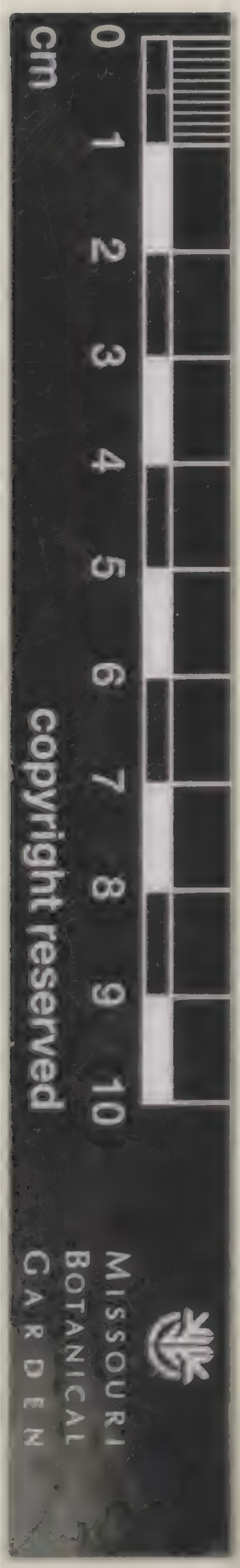

Rec'd April 26th
Ans'd May 1st

Davenport April 24th 61

My Dear Dr

Your note of 19th is just received. It would seem that the matter in hand is progressing favorably. The details I shall be satisfied to leave in your hands. As to Salary. I think I ought to get $150 in gold per month. but will be satisfied with less if the amount should stand in the way of a definite arrangement, Then the collections will be worth something. but that might go for your share of the spoils. I would like to get early a notice as possible of any definite arrangement, as I should need some little time to settle up some matters before leaving.

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As to my association with Le Conte as sub, I do not doubt but I could get along pleasantly. but I have the same suspicion you have that. his special vocation. has hardly fitted him to conduct so important a work as a thorough Geol survey. Still it might answer for R R purposes. and by making extensive collections he could get his work elaborated by more competent hands. Probably your suggestions were the most judicious under the circumstances and the R.R. Co must assume the responsibility. We want to get all the Botany we can out of it and so a little policy will not come amiss. I still feel somewhat surprised at your compliments on my "Calligraphy" but if it accomplishes the purpose I ought to be satisfied.

I shall accept the pleasure of closing my civilized career in that hospitable garret of yours perhaps I may bring the wife along to help me pack up. Of course you will duly inform me of matters. & advise & you may telegraph her at my expense will try & look up that Barometric rate

Sincerely Yours
C C Parry

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Rec April 29
Ans May 1st

Davenport April 27th 61

My Dear Sir

Your letter of 25th
was quite
like the Shafer things. am taking
the adit St Louis will not let me
select his own subs to do the
work and there are supernumerary
I shall not have a fair show
unless some distinct duty is assigned
me in which I might be independent
If I should go I should need all
the spare time I can get to make
myself ready.

I would suggest therefore that the Co
make me a distinct offer of what
they will do in my case and I
will take the matter into consideration
and answer Yes or No

I have just now a letter from Eaton asking if I would join a party as Botanist under Government to explore along the line of 40° 41° N. Lat to consist mainly of young students The salary offered is small but the situation would be a pleasant one. I shall answer that I am negotiating for a position on R R which will be decided soon and if not completed will take his proposition into consideration

If a satisfactory arrangement is made with R R Co I shall ~~do~~ have the longest notice I can get to make my arrangements — in which I might state to you frankly the offer I have had, which may help to induce a liberal view of the matter if he is really anxious for me to go If I had more time I would come down & talk the matter over more fully, but it seems to be rather crowding things at the present time I await developments

Yours truly

C. C. Parry

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Rec May 7th

Savannah Ga May 4th 1859

My Dear

I have just rec'd your letter of May 3d and have telegraphed to all Savannah adieu of you. I shall leave here on Tuesday or Wednesday next week & on 8th or 9th will dine with you. Yesterday I also had a note from Cotton to the effect that he had all right to all the [illegible] and that he would [illegible] the matter [illegible] for the [illegible] entitled to [illegible] credit. I shall [illegible] your draft a d. [illegible] office. Expecting to see you on

Yours Truly

[illegible]

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No 1 Sec 2 June 6 & 7

Near Salida

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N. 2.

Arr[d] June 25th
Dep[t] June 23 " Camp near Ft Hays
June 16th 1867
post mark June 17

My Dear Dr

We have progressed thus far on our route 95 miles from Salina and 130 more will bring us to Paid Creek where our work of Survey commences and we leave the Smoky Hills & come over to the Arkansas The Rain Encountered since several storms of rain occasioning floods in all the small creeks & making water plenty and grass (Buffalo) very vigorous I find quite a contrast between Kan & the Platte Country. This is much more uneven better watered, and more expensive for R R Construction also abundantly supplied with building & bridge stone The Cretaceous strata cropping out along the borders & mean all the streams, with it Rocks & Stones The shale containing the Dicotyledonous leaves and Stems some fair specimens. among them a magnificent veined leaf over 6 inches in diameter. like Hamamelis? It would take some time and patience to make a good fine collection that I must be done by some Stationary collector. Who can watch the gravel The matrix is a very fine grey marl and there Such hardens on Exposure and then specimens can be chiselled out to advantage I keep up my observations as often as good opportunity or a regular station offers & send you the record up to date

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

on the march I shall observe altogether with the new Barometer 1579. which is in good order the mercury clean and adjustment exact. In botany I see little that is quite new to me but since interesting things. Astragali are coming out in fosse and I shall make a pretty full collection. no Juncei yet and only the most Eastern Cacti. Main work + Nuttalli our organization is very strictly military. too much so to suit the young men who have to march in the day + stand guard nights. We are to have an escort from this point as the Indians are disposed to be troublesome. shown great cautiousness in my selection. shall be more to have our route + mode of travelling. you had better apply to the R R Office for a map. Mr Peary. the president is now beyond here with a military Excursion party — we shall probably meet them on the way to Pond Creek or Ft Wallace I write under your frank from there as through Mr Peary. I have an acquaintance of Mr Schotts as I shall make one of the Photographers. I only wish we had Mr Rockin in place of the rather photographic apparatus which will fail to pieces. I hope to hear from you occasionally. Send your letters through the R R Office. I think I shall be assigned to the northern party through the Canyon de Chelly from into the Rio Grande. I write under your frank from Ft Wallace in case I am sent forward

Sincerely Yours C B Parry

No 3 Rec'd July 10
Ans'd July 22

Ft Wallace Jun 30th 1867

My Dear Dr

I have just been notified that a mail will be dispatched this P.M. to run the Indians gauntlet for St Louis. I therefore hastily copy the ballance of my record to date and send you a letter dropped in the mail box several days ago. It contains the record before this. I have been very careful with my observations here as a starting point and hope they will give good results as compared with the Surveyors. which can be directly compared to Station Nos which by survey is 2610 ft above low water at Wyandotte. mouth of Kansas. which you can get at Pacific RR office. and then reduce to St Louis.

I have no items to tell you of our Indian troubles. on the 2d Inst after reaching Fort on Escort had a fight and lost 5 men out of 50 engaged three of them scalped & horribly mutilated. Then has made a big scare with our Chiefs who hesitate about going on with the Survey without a large Escort and do we much feel Buccaneers return from Denver In the mean time I am picking up what plants I can still finding but few from each but many common plants species but in good condition. There is considerable dissatisfaction with the employees

the Expedition - and a number expect to leave when
Genl Hancock comes down among the rest Dr
Bell as Photographer. Also of the green wile call
on you on his return - take a parcel of plants
I still hope we will manage to get along slowly towards
the mountains so as to become better packers
but we cannot make more than 15 to 18 miles a day
& then probably disband for the season
I write unto you more fully & to Mrs in the
1st regular Stage and after then we get on the
Ark Kansas we shall again have our postal
communications open In the mean time I hope
you will drop me a line occasionally at the
R R Office which will be duly forwarded with
other mail matter - You will notice we have
warm weather - here but dry The Smoky Hill is reduced
to a mere brook and above here is lost in the
Sand. I have a good deal more to write but must
wait as it is now dark and hand them
kind regards to Mrs E. & Georges

Yours truly G. C. Swing.

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Rec'd Aug 2d '28

No 6

My Dear Dr

Fort Lyon Colorado Ter
July 17th 1867

I received at this place your letter No 3. (June 21st) No 2 having not yet come to hand. We accomplished our journey across to the Arkansas without mishap making the distance from the Smoky Hill to Arkansas 72 miles, we struck the Arkansas 42 miles below here being so far misled by Popes map. There was very little of interest on our route just a wide grassy upland with a succession of knolls & depressions. The principal drainage being to the Arkansas. no Trees. shrubs or running waters. You will be able better to judge by these brief notes the profile of country. by Such A Section quite contrary to our expectation that the Arkansas was higher than Smoky Hill though perhaps the greater westing would account for the difference as the fall of the Arkansas for our journey is here 7 1/2 ft per mile. The river is now at flood height & is a very respectable stream. The valley is much more attractive than the Platte in the same latitude & Long. and is apparently adapted to cultivation. For several miles below here there is an outcrop of Cretaceous Sandstone bluffs. well adapted for building purposes and a fair amount of cotton wood timber in the bottoms. The location is a new post and is located 3 or 4 miles below the mouth of Purgatory on the North side. There is a fine Spring here which shows a temperature of 54,25 and a yearly mean that I get from the records of the Ft for 1861 gives a result of 54.15 They have a branch at this post, a very good one but I do not have much confidence in the Observations I found

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on Company barometers that. then ranged nearly 2 below
zero & examining the cistern I found A very dull &
concluded that there was air in the tube. I was also obliged
in my own case to take hold of that matter as one of my
barometers 1579 was wasting mercury and in trying to see
when the fault was I got a bubble of air in my tube &
I took the thing in hand. and emptied both tube & cistern
cleaned the mercury & returned it. & had something
to just write to make an bubble in the tube but recollecting
some advice on the subject I let up a large bubble
from the bottom and gathered them up. closed the light
and now the instrument works well. Having thus got confidence
I took hold of the Port B. and served it the same way
got it as did A gave a distinct vacuum click. and
brought the range to higher Elevation. I then took the
my old barometer which was very dirty & cleaned it with
so that now I have all in good working order today
I answered the letter attached thereto and enclosed in
a letter to Green directing to repair & send by Express to
Santa Fe. - So that as the present state of the case as
regards barometers - As to calculated obs. I am quite at
a loss: to refer our RR starting point to Wyandotte. perhaps
you have got it so as to make direct comparison with
our barometric levels. - Talking to Col Greenwood Esq in
charge & during to Denver he advised me to apply as I can
you do so to Mr J McRussock Supt Missouri Pacific RR
Office Olive between 5th & 6th St St Louis for information of
RR levels from Wyandotte or Leavenworth west. to T. Riley
So that you may get a starting point to refer our levels to

According to the best information I can get Selma is 600 ft above Wyandotte. I think this will conform well with your results 739 above your B in St Louis. But to connect the Wyandotte starting point you must refer to low water in Miss at St Louis, which please give me when you next write. I hope we will be able to determine these fixed points but if not we can take some intermediate levels determined once for our basis of comparison As to the irregular rise at Selma & Spring Creek you can no doubt explain it readily there as the weather at that period was very unsettled & at Spring Creek we experienced the heaviest rain storm I ever saw, I shall again look carefully over the barometric record here & select such results as seem to be reliable, as an example of the way this thing is managed I found the mean of corrected record of Baron Ross during the first part of June. ~~record on~~ ~~the~~ taken at Old Ft Lyon 22 miles below here backed on to the continued observations made at this place for the latter part of the month and a monthly mean made from the whole!! with no item under the head of remarks to indicate any removal! Otherwise I think the Hospital Steward in charge careful in making his observations & regular in recording. — I too Col Greenwood that I would ask you to mail him a copy of our altitudes in Colorado and probably the best way would be to cut out from some pamphlet the sheet containing & enclose in a letter

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Direct to Col Greenwood in charge of Survey U.P.R.W.-S.D
Denver Colorado. He will probably not be there for
two months yet I think he is a very reliable
energetic man a fine Chief. Who is willing to work
In return you might ask him to send you his level
from Ft Wallace through to Denver. I shall give
him your address and ask him to call on you
when he returns to St Louis next fall

We have got fairly out of the Indian scare and
melodrama is relaxed - but still it is
necessary to be on our guard. I understand there
is to be a division of our party there will be 2 by
Sangre de Christo Pass to the Rio Grande and down
Albuquerque which I hope to be connected with
the other the ordinary route by Ft Union to Santa Fe
I suppose I shall know about it before leaving here
I find hereabouts a little of botanical interest so I
amuse myself with radical investigations at our
Camps by the way, in of the River Banks there
was brought to view an Indian root of Prairie Dog
of which I took measurements and weight & made
a rough figure I will send you my notes when I
get time to copy, Total length 7 ft 6 inch enormous
Largest joint 2 ft 4 inches weight (dried) 22 lbs. Inside
notes given some Ute Name You have received
before this. Its smoke peace and by smoke
I don't know when I shall get a letter from
you if I be in the ranch party. But of you will

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keep writing I shall get them some time
I wish you would send me in a letter the slips
containing my altitudes in Colorado I forgot to
bring the pamphlet containing them with me
occasionally want to refer to them in a series
of comparisons. Our photographic arrangements
get on better than they did. Dr Bell is a very
nice companion about fall on & keeps up his
interest in botany. Draws on me rather largely
for pressing paper which I can spare now but must
soft for contingencies. L Carter is very lazy hardly
stirs from his bed or ambulance. Every one in
camp remarks it and wonders how he will be
able to make out a respectable. This is not a
very pleasant locality. on an exposed gravelly bluff
very dusty & bare of vegetation but some of the
views are very fine On a very clear day
one can just distinguish Spanish Peaks but I have
not yet been able to separate them from heavy
clouds. Beyond this there is said to be a good
farming country and one of our foraging parties
came in yesterday with fresh vegetables. a
great treat We learn here I suppose much weeks
Monday, and I hope will experience no more delays
before we reach the Rio Grande. Must close for
this present remember me kindly to Mrs C & George

Sincerely Yours

C C Parry

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Aug 13 & 8

Aug Memphis Jamestown

No. 7.

Camp on Hurgano near
Cruces July 30th 1867

Dear Sir

Here is my boundary record to date we are crawling slowly towards the Pass next week will be among them. are just getting into the cedar & Pinon region no new plants yet Of arborescens has come in in force. The is a thickly settled & fertile valley. produces large crops of corn is mostly worked by Americans. on the Mex plan system. We are glad to get away Signs of cultivation. for there is pretty much an Indian route like we reach Ft Garland then we follow down the Rio Grande to Albuquerque

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I do not know whether I told you in my last that I was commanded with a detached party. Our Chiefs having gone via Pueyatang. So that I shall have some new country. There are some high Snow peaks near Sangre de Cristo pass. I shall cross & climb at least get into the Alpine region. Hope to reach an Elevation of 14000 ft. Just above me the Huerfano passes a Canon for 20 miles through Sandstone & Cretaceous formation sloping at a low angle to the East apparently on the line of depression beyond this we shall come to disturbed and metamorphic rocks and down it I mean Cedar & Pinedales Skirt all the adjoining hills. The enclosed grass Andropogon ——? is characteristic of all the uplands of this District & Arkansas. Short Species is N. M. mixed bluebch fodder but not equal to Chondrosium or Buchloe. I hope to hear from you at Ft Garland as our letters can be forwarded thence. I will take us like 1st to reach Albuquerque & then I suppose it will be decided whether to push on West or return East for the winter. Sorry if I should have to go over Ruxton's route again in the winter —!!

Rainy season has set in in the Mts but we only see it at a distance. You will see from record that we have had days & cool nights. Shall be glad of cool days again when we get higher up.

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I wish I could join you in 71 Jornada by the observation. The results of that I hope to get when I reach Albuquerque — I shall try to ascend Sandia Peak if not too late & letter that P Flexuosa account

Our baseboard mail passes here to-morrow morning Early for Pueblo Denver &c So I must close. You will hear from me next among the Spanish Peaks

Yours truly James

C C Parry

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Received Aug 20
Ans — 28

No 8

Sedro. [illegible]

[illegible]

My Dear Sir

The is my record to date by which you will learn that I have at last reached the Mountains [illegible] the ascent of Sangre de Cristo pass over the route followed by Fremont in 1854. Then I will resume the [illegible] of the trail where it crosses the Arkansas [illegible] the mountains I was fortunate enough to find in the arkansas valley a fish [illegible] (the [illegible]) [illegible]

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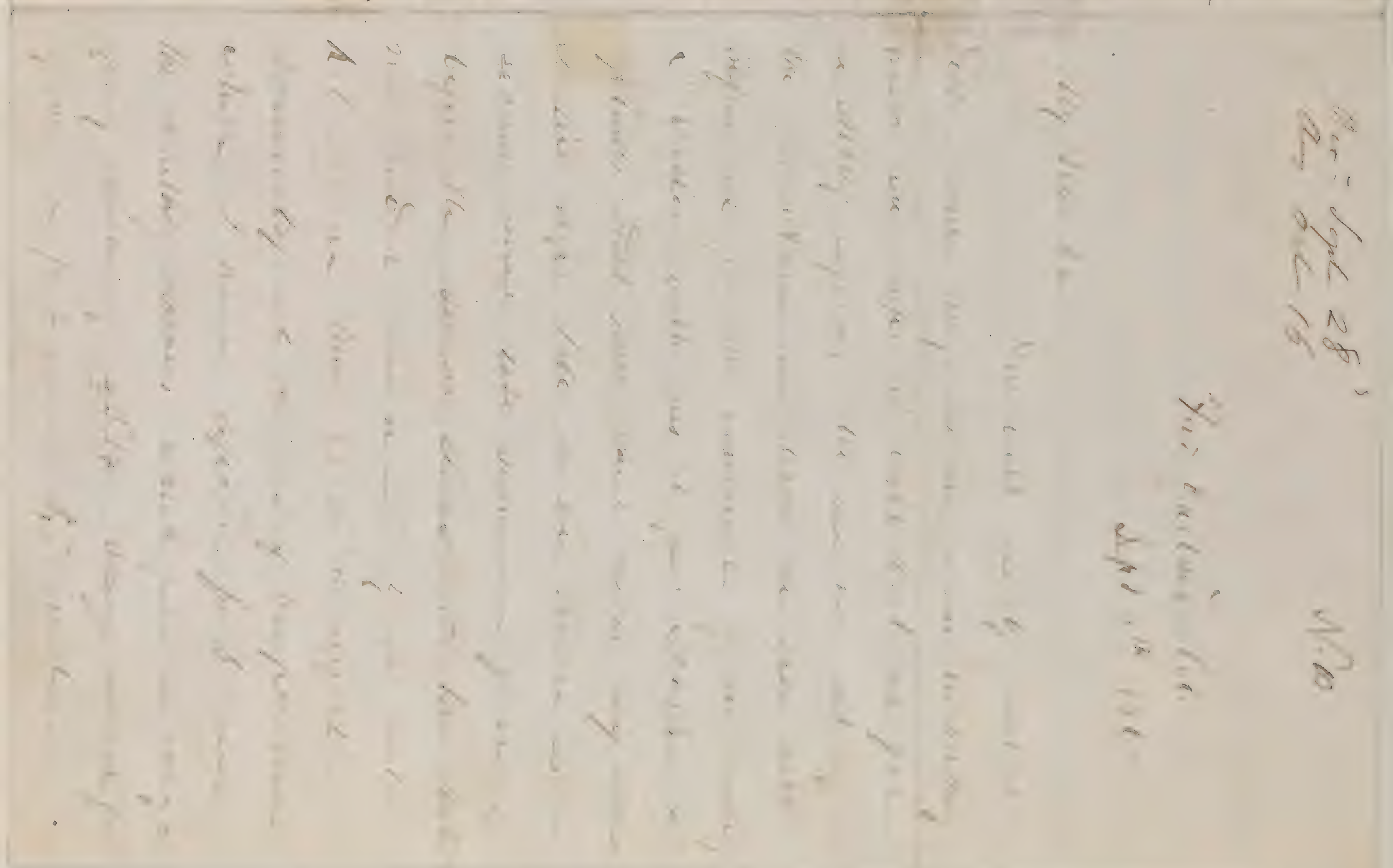
In my visit to [illegible] I
and Gen. drove the former time on
with the proper object to look out
side Sight Example to find Rumex
maritata and Abies Engelmanni
shown its usual character. A
Shen plants therefore rare a mile
meta with Goodyera pubescens
Physostylla umbellata, Sorbus Americana
I do not get know what kind of
open region we shall reach
in Clancy the range but I hope
to get high enough to determine
anything, & the range of species
plants will [illegible] open
will be from Ft Garland 35 miles
distant and then I shall learn
more by my return then matters
will [illegible]
with [illegible]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When I reach Albuquerque I shall be glad to hear from you a full account of results of Barometric &c &c &c I shall then probably have done by overhaul my collections & notes, and see the season's work. It still seems uncertain what will be done with our party. You at St Louis would have the best chance of knowing what the Co proposes to do. There is a rumor that Jewett Wright is to be removed in which event probably his particular facts would change in the fall. I presume also there would be an entire reorganization of the party. I should like to go on well enough but it would be rather a cool joke to botanize as Bigelow did through Arizona in winter I would rather go back & work up results & come out again. A great many things I could tell you about that I do not care to write.

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I am collecting seeds freely but Cacti are rare in the whole section as far traversed and I am anxious with your aid to procure seeds of the common bunch Cereus of this region. probably C. Fendleri. A genus to a very considerable elevation & flourishes in the Rio Grande valley & think it ought to be quite hardy. It bears a very respectable fruit and grows in bunches of several hundred I do not see it yet on the west of the Rio. Opuntia Rafinesquii it also common growing even on high mountain & Sangre de Cristo. No fruit could be found. I have also stumbled on some Yucca. but none of the Arizonica species. Do not fail to write me on receipt of this to Albuquerque and especially recapitulate results of observations as I may need them to make up a preliminary report

Yours truly

C. C. Parry

Yours truly

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Ans Octob 2
Ans — 16

N. 11

Santa Fe. Sept 19th 1867

My Dear Son

I reached this place on 16th and since then I have been busy packing specimens. I have sent to you by express the bulk of my collections I wanted to send the whole but the box was not large enough, and I had a good deal to do in making & packing such specimens. So that I had no time to put up the botanical specimens in good shape and label &c as I expected to do at leisure at Albuquerque You will have to do the best you can. I have sent also my express expenses which will come to $20.00 or over which must be a matter out of the specimens or I will divide with you and consider the collection joint property. You had better now make selection such specimens as you want to study & distribute and I leave the bulk till I return when we will arrange about distributing the whole collection. Yet seeds, I think you will want to distribute at once. Please send a small assortment of anything choice to my wife in Owensport - balance at your own discretion. In case you should leave for Europe this fall. The collection of plants had better be sent to my address at Davenport But as you have not intimated anything of the kind I infer that you will not go abroad this year as soon as I can leave our family will accompany me in the Rocky Mountains where I proceed to once on the

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Journey to the Pacific, in two separate parties. one on Whipples route which I shall probably accompany the other on 32° parallele. Genl Wright is still in charge though we had heard rumors of his removal & Genl Palmer is now here attending to the interests of the C on the reorganization. I do not know whether Le Conte goes on or not I have sent in the Genl collection. a few wood Specimens among them a full section of Pinus edulis. If you can make some excuse to examine the same perhaps you can manage to grab. a half section — for botanical purposes If so please save a slice for me I could have sent you a large lot of ripe cones of P Edules in the Box but neglected to collect while passing along I send a small sample of the roasted seeds as found in Santa Fe market. I am not prepared with Santa Fe or botanizing ground. I have tried to locate on one or I can the scene of Fendlers labors. but there are no pines near to afford Spruce plants the request to learn a day for final rendezvous and when I get over leisure I will write again I shall enclose with this Express receipt. So you may be prepared for the box You can put on the results of your examination of your leisure dust your letters through the office of P.R.R.E. I have nothing late from you but shall expect several letters at Albuquerque.

Sincerely Yours C. C. Parry

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Rec'd Dec 26th
Ans Dec 28

Prescott, Arizona
Nov 23d 1867

My Dear Dr

You will see that I have brought up in Central Arizona. and have been testing the Climate of 35°— We had a good freezing time at the steps of San Francisco. Thermometer going as low as 15° F but the Days are generally warm & pleasant so Snow yet— Botany is quiescent just now though I have lately seen in fl + fr Cowania Sanburniana Torr I am surprised to find in this region such a northern aspect of vegetation The pine woods. exhibiting mostly northern forms. This is the locality where Dr Coues and Palmer made their collections but I doubt— if they did the locality— justice. I have been hoping to stumble on the Lewisia now fr. but the season will hardly allow

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Juniperus pachyphloia Torrey

I enclose scraps of the Cedar of this District which takes the place of our common red cedar. If not described we must work it up and give it a sp name - Juniperus Arizonensis ? I am taking full notes on its Habitat and will get Sections. It is of a fine globular spare low branched with foliage especially in young growth of a silvery aspect. Bark in old growth splitting up into small checkered blocks of a dull ivory aspect some of the old trees look quite venerable Having a diameter at base of 2 to 3 ft then about 6 ft from the ground branching out into a regular globular shape. The male & female trees separate the latter often loaded with whitish mealy-berries. Sap and inner the heart wood light red and fragrant I shall collect seeds with a view to cultivation as it is quite ornamental and ought to be hardy - I am also a good deal puzzled with the Pinon. The species here is

Pinus monophylla

the P. monophylla but as far as I have seen specimens the leaves are about equally divided on the same shoot in pairs & single. I should not know how to distinguish it otherwise from the New Mex. P. edulis which as far as I have examined is always leaves in pairs. The other day I found young shoots which exhibited the true leaf as a subtending leafy bract, persistent after the proper abellary leaves are developed I will enclose you a specimen in my next. I have written to Blander asking him to write to me at St Thomas and inform me when I can find him in San Francisco. I am now as usual separated from the main party being left here by Lieut Palmer to examine & collect mineral specimens. I go out next week with a small prospecting party to make a tour of mines in this vicinity. When Lieut Palmer returns I expect we will make more

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to Mex. Colorado, and so on to San Francisco.
It is probable now that I may return
by overland route via Salt Lake; early in
March I hope to hear from you at
Fort Mojave at least I wish you would
write me on receipt of this directed
to Camp Bolander San Francisco.
As the 7th near here they had a barometer
since broken I have copied from the
record. Monthly means as follow

1867 Month mean for May	24.403	That 66	The Del 68,92
" " " June	23.954	75.5	73.86
mean for 2 months	24.178	70,75	71.39

Thermometer mean for 1866. 54° max 94° Min 2°

Rain 1866 19,57 inches

I am anxious to hear from you and
get posted in news. I may drop you
a line again before leaving here
I hear of an Army Dr- Dr Chas Smart who
is collecting plants at Tucson I hope
he will report some time

My much love

C. C. Parry

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